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FCC ANNOUNCES JOINT FEDERAL/STATE VOIP ENHANCED 911 ENFORCEMENT TASK FORCE

Austin, TX: FCC Chairman Kevin J. Martin today announced the creation of an FCC-NARUC Task Force on VoIP Enhanced 911 (E911) enforcement. Staff from both the FCC and State Public Utility Commissions will serve as members, working closely with representatives from the public safety community, including the Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO) and the National Emergency Number Association (NENA).

The Task Force was created to facilitate the timely and effective enforcement of the Commission's VoIP E911 rules. Working together, the federal and state Task Force members will look at developing educational materials to ensure that consumers understand their rights and the requirements of the FCC's VoIP E911 Order and rules and how best to expedite compliance and facilitate enforcement, where necessary. The Task Force will also compile data and share best practices.

"One of the FCC's core missions is to promote public safety. Our VoIP E911 rules are critical to achieving that goal," said Chairman Martin in announcing formation of the Task Force. "I look forward to working with my colleagues in the states to advance our common goal that all Americans, no matter their provider, have access to life-saving emergency 911 services."

FCC and NARUC Task Force members will be named shortly.

Adopted on May 19, 2005, the Commission's VoIP E911 rules require interconnected VoIP providers to:

- Deliver all 911 calls to the customer's local emergency operator;
- Give emergency operators the call back number and location information of their customers where the emergency operator is capable of receiving it; and
- Inform their customers of their E911 capabilities and limitations of their service.